

shifted to a new position, one caterpillar in its cocoon began a whirring, clicking noise. This appears to be made when the caterpillar, feeling disturbed, begins either to turn rapidly around, or from side to side in the cocoon.

On the night of March 16, 1953, after a thunder storm, two female moths emerged from their cocoons. Next evening, one of the moths laid her eggs, which were attached with a sticky substance to the wire mesh on the box. Moths also emerged from the two remaining cocoons.

A search about trees and other likely places did not reveal any more of that season's cocoons. Perhaps the dry season may have been the reason for the scarcity of the caterpillars and their cocoons.

During the morning of March 30, hairy caterpillars about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in length hatched from the moth's eggs. Fresh jam phyllodes were fed to the young caterpillars which soon moved up the jam branch to feed on the phyllodes. After feeding, they rested on the box top and sides. The little caterpillars were voracious feeders and soon began to grow. The caterpillars were kept in captivity until May 18 when the box, with the lid off, was placed at a jam tree in natural surroundings. The caterpillars would leave the box at evening, usually about 7.30 p.m. and ascend the jam tree to feed on the phyllodes. Many of the caterpillars returned to the box after feeding and they continued life in this way during the following months.

On October 7 about fifty very large caterpillars, all about 3 inches in length, were resting in the box. A small number of cocoons had been made in a group at the bottom of the box and two cocoons had been made on a wheat sack which was used for covering the box. A large amount of "dirt" and cast skins had accumulated in the box. Only two caterpillars were found resting outside on a piece of board. The winter rains had been exceptionally heavy, but it apparently had not affected the caterpillars.

At the end of October only a small number of caterpillars remained in the box. By November 17 there were no caterpillars in the box, but a large number of cocoons were in a group at the bottom of it.

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Name of a Jockey Beetle—a Correction.**—In my article on the jockey beetle in the *W.A. Naturalist*, vol. 2, no. 6, p. 132, I referred to it as *Chlamydopsis duboulayi*. The correct name for the species discussed and figured is, however, *Chlamydopsis loculosa* Lea. The error was brought about by comparing my material with a mis-named specimen in the collection of the W.A. Museum.

—R. P. McMILLAN, Cannington.

**Spotted Harrier at Busseton.**—In his review of the bird irruptions in 1952 D. L. Serventy stated that the Spotted Harrier (*Circus assimilis*) had not hitherto been recorded in the South-

west area (*W.A. Naturalist*, vol. 3, 1953, p. 189). I find, however, in my records a reference to an individual of the species which was shot at Busselton in 1934. On January 11, of that year, Mr. Roy Maegregor gave me a specimen whose dimensions I noted as follows: length, 21½ in.; wing, 22½ in.; tarsus, 2 in.; the legs were white; nails, horn; bill, horn; iris, dark blue; and facial disc dark grey. The bird was not sexed.

A large number of Straw-necked Ibis were present on the Broadwater at the time.

—H. M. WHITTELL, Bridgetown.

**Incipient Song in Juvenile or Female Blue Wrens.**—On September 6, 1953, on the Muehea-Gingin road in the vicinity of Lake Catambo, a group of about 8 Blue Wrens (*Malurus splendens*) was under observation for about half an hour as they fed in a gum and wattle thicket. The birds used a monosyllabic "flock" note, a short "tip" as they moved about. There was only one fully plumaged male in attendance and this was quite silent but on several occasions one of the juveniles or females was heard and seen to utter a short snatch of song. The birds frequently came within 8 feet as they fed. It was impossible to tell whether the songs all came from the same individual or whether they were juveniles or females; none had any blue on the wings though all had blue on the tail and chestnut beaks and eye patches.

—JOHN WARHAM, Leederville.

**Occurrence of Red-cared Firetail and Red-winged Wren in the Darling Ranges.**—When collecting for the W.A. Museum along the Albany Highway on February 28, 1954, I examined a dry creek bed near the 53-mile peg (from Perth). The precise locality was about one mile along an old timber track leading off from the Highway to the west, on the Perth side of the 53-mile peg. The country is mostly wandoo forest with a few scattered jarrah trees and the usual sclerophyllous ground flora. The Red-winged Wrens (*Malurus elegans*) were feeding in the thickets near the creek bank. The Red-cared Firetail (*Zonaeginthus ocellatus*) were found in the same area, and in the company of the Red-winged Wrens. I saw 5 finches and there were large parties of Wrens, there being at least 15 birds in one group, including 3 fully-plumaged males. Nearby was a company of the Banded Wren (*Malurus splendens*). Specimens of the finch and the Red-winged Wren were collected for the Museum.

—K. G. BULLER, W.A. Museum.

**Sunbathing of Senegal Turtledove.**—On September 12, 1953, in a garden at Leederville an adult Senegal Turtledove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*) was noticed squatting on a gravel path at right angles to the strong sun. The tail was fully fanned and the left wing, that on the sunny side, half extended with the primaries separated a little. This attitude was held for several